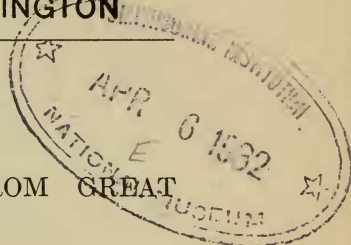


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



TWO BIRDS NEW TO SCIENCE FROM GREAT
NAMAQUALAND.

By HERBERT FRIEDMANN.¹

Among a series of birds collected by Mrs. L. O. Sordahl while stationed at the Smithsonian Institution's astrophysical observatory on Mt. Brukkaros in Great Namaqualand are two forms new to science. These are described below.

Erythropgia coryphaeus abboti, subsp. nov.

Type.—U. S. Nat. Mus., 331162, adult, unsexed, probably male, Fish River, 6 miles from Berseba, South West African Protectorate, collected March 1, 1931, by Mrs. L. O. Sordahl.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *E. c. coryphaeus* of Cape Province but with the white tips of the outer rectrices very much smaller, not more than half as large as in *coryphaeus*; dimensions and general coloration similar to *coryphaeus*.

Mrs. Sordahl collected an adult female together with the type and considered them as a mated pair although the type itself was not sexed when skinned. The two birds were in a tree with two half grown young, probably their offspring.

This distinct new race of this ground robin is named in honor of Dr. Charles G. Abbot, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, at whose suggestion the observatory on Mt. Brukkaros was founded and under whose supervision its work was carried out.

The two specimens of *abboti* were compared with a small series from Cape Province (typical *coryphaeus*).

At present *abboti* is known only from the type locality. The mapping of its entire range is a matter that must await further material and exploration.

Both the type and paratype are in rather worn plumage.

Poliospiza albogularis sordahlae, subsp. nov.

Type.—U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 331186, adult male, collected on Mt. Brukkaros, S. W. Africa, July 15, 1930, by Mrs. L. O. Sordahl.

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Paratype.—U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 331185, unsexed, adult, collected at the same place, July 14, 1930, by Mrs. Sordahl.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *P. a. albogularis* in coloration, but with a longer, relatively less swollen bill; slightly larger size generally.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 86, tail 61; length of culmen from the base 15; width of maxillae at base 8 mm. (In *P. a. albogularis* males from South Africa the dimensions are as follows: wing 76–78; tail 54–57; length of culmen from the base 12.5–13, width of maxillae at the base 8.5–9 mm.).

This new race is named in honor of Mrs. L. O. Sordahl who maintained her interest in zoological collecting under rather trying and difficult circumstances, and who brought together a remarkably interesting little collection. So far the range of *sordahlæ* is restricted to Mt. Brukkaros.

Lest it be thought that these two specimens may be *P. a. crocopygia* it may be said that they are as dark as typical *albogularis* and in no way suggest the paler coloration of the Damaraland race.

Mrs. Sordahl writes that, “. . . these birds stay on the mountain during the whole year, living on top of the mountain during the hottest months, November, December, January, and February. During the cool months . . . also found at the lower levels and on the foothills below the mountain.” She often saw the birds in flocks in the large tree aloes, apparently eating the seeds. A bird bath and drinking fountain set up near the house was frequented also, as many as 30 birds at one time being counted on it.